



Testimony of Tyisha Walker
Alderwoman, Ward 23
City of New Haven

In Support of **SB 535: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE NEW HAVEN
WORKS PROGRAM**

Dear Legislature,

My name is Alderwoman Tyisha Walker and I am in full support of the jobs pipeline. In 2011 I ran to represent Ward 23 Dwight/ West River knocked on hundreds of doors and I heard repeatedly that people needed jobs, safe spaces for children and a decrease in violence.

Once I became the Alderwoman of Ward 23 together with all 29 other representatives we brought the concerns of the people to the forefront. The BOA unanimously passed a legislative agenda that included these priorities and have been fighting to make sure they come into existence for our city. I was part of the group that came together to form the jobs pipeline concept. We included the business community, alderman, unemployed, the city and youth to figure out what we need to establish a pipeline that connect real people to real jobs. This issue of joblessness in New Haven has led to hopelessness in the city. There are residents that have the required skills to gain employment but for some reason they are still unemployed. The jobs pipeline will offer support services to residents to get them job ready. This concept will bring hope to residents that for a long time felt like life here in New Haven has been beating them down. This is not a guarantee of work but a guarantee of access to employment. Residents are not looking for a hand out, they are just merely looking for a second chance at life to be able to support their families. The jobs pipeline will do just this, allow New Haven residents access to jobs, a comprehensive support system, and it will grow the local economy. This program will also offer stability within the communities. I believe this is our opportunity to come together and bring hope back to the City of New Haven. I urge the legislature to support New Haven in this innovative way to connect qualified residents to good jobs that will sustain our neighborhoods and grow our local economy.

Regards,

Alderwoman Tyisha Walker
Ward 23, New Haven, CT
tyishawalk@aol.com